

What is claimed is:

1. A developer container configured to be removably mounted to a body of an image forming apparatus, said developer container comprising:

a developer outlet formed in a side wall of said developer container; and

shutter means for selectively opening or closing said developer outlet;

wherein said shutter means opens said developer outlet when said developer container is mounted to said body or closes said developer outlet when said developer container is dismounted from said body.

2. The developer container as claimed in claim 1, wherein a nozzle mounted on said body is inserted into or removed from said developer outlet in a substantially horizontal direction when said developer container is mounted to or dismounted from said body, respectively.

3. The developer container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shutter means comprises a seal member formed of foam sponge and closing said developer outlet, said shutter means being formed with a slit via which said nozzle is capable of penetrating into said developer container.

4. The developer container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shutter means comprises:

an external shutter positioned outside of said

developer outlet and movable between a closing position for closing said developer outlet and an opening position for opening said developer outlet; and

a biasing member constantly biasing said external shutter toward the closing position;

wherein when said developer container is mounted to said body, said external shutter is moved from the closing position to the opening position against an action of said biasing member.

5. The developer container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said shutter means comprises:

a biasing member;

a shutter member constantly biased by said biasing member from an inside toward an outside of said developer container and movable between a closing position for closing a passage and an opening position for opening said passage; and

a seal member disposed in said passage and slidable on said shutter member held in the closing position;

wherein when said developer container is mounted to said body, said nozzle penetrates into said developer container in a substantially horizontal direction while moving said shutter member from the closing position to the opening position against an action of said biasing member.

6. The developer container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said developer container is mounted to or dismounted from said body in substantially a direction of gravity, said developer outlet being open in a substantially horizontal direction.

7. The developer container as claimed in claim 6, wherein a nozzle mounted on said body is inserted into or removed from said developer outlet in a substantially horizontal direction when said developer container is mounted to or dismounted from said body, respectively.

8. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a developer container removably mounted to said image forming apparatus and storing a developer;

air feeding means for feeding air under pressure into said developer container; and

a substantially hermetically sealed passage extending from said developer container to a position to which the developer should be replenished;

said developer container comprising:

a developer outlet formed in a side wall of said developer container; and

shutter means for selectively opening or closing said developer outlet;

wherein said shutter means opens said developer outlet when said developer container is mounted to said

image forming apparatus or closes said developer outlet when said developer container is dismounted from said image forming apparatus.